## **CONCLUSION**

The applicants believe that the preceding arguments demonstrate that claim 1 is novel over Hornbostel, as well as Blau, Taylor, Ryss and all other art cited by the examiner. Claims 8, 9 and 18 depend from claim 1 and are therefore also patentable as claims depending from an allowable independent claim. The applicants believe the same applies to claim 14, which depends from claim 8 and has been considered withdrawn by the examiner for reasons not understood by the applicants. The applicants further request that withdrawn claims 10-13, 14 if it is indeed withdrawn, 15-17 and 25 be rejoined and allowed also since a generic claim (claim 1) has been shown to be allowable.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, to Account No. 05-1328.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: November 24, 2008 /J. Paul Plummer/

J. Paul Plummer Reg. No. 40,775

ExxonMobil Upstream Research Company

P.O. Box 2189

Houston, Texas 77252-2189 Telephone: (713) 431-7360 Facsimile: (713) 431-4664